

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: UUUC REITERATES REFUSAL TO DISCUSS POWER SHARING

1. UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) REPORTEDLY
SENT LETTER TO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
MERLYN REES JAN. 14 REITERATING REFUSAL TO DISCUSS POWER
SHARING WITH MINORITY PARTIES IN RENEWED CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION SCHEDULE BEGIN FEB. 3 FOR ONE MONTH PERIOD.
UUUC TACTIC WILL PROBABLY BE TO USE ITS MAJORITY IN
BUSINESS COMMITTEE AND ON FLOOR TO BLOCK DISCUSSION.

2. HARRY WEST LEADER OF OFFICIAL UNIONIST PARTY SAID IN RADIO
INTERVIEW THERE NO POINT IN DISCUSSING CHANGES IN PROPOSALS
THAT REFLECTED WILL OF MAJORITY OF VOTERS IN NORTHERN
IRELAND, THAT HAD GAINED "WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE" OF BRITISH
GOVERNMENT AND THAT HAD BEEN TOTALLY REJECTED ONLY BY MINORITY
PARTIES NORTHERN IRELAND. HE SAID IT UP TO MINORITY PARTIES
TO GIVE THIS ACCEPTANCE IN CONVENTION. HE REPEATED HIS
BELIEF, SHARED HE SAID BY MANY CONSTITUTIONAL EXPERTS
IN U.K., THAT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE SYSTEM PROPOSED IN
CONVENTION REPORT WAS MOST GENEROUS TREATMENT OF MINORITY
IN GOVERNMENT IN HISTORY. WEST SAID (AS HAS IAN PAISLEY)
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THAT HE WOULD WELCOME ELECTION TO DETERMINE HOW PEOPLE OF

NORTHERN IRELAND STOOD ON ISSUE. IF UUUC LOST HE SAID, THEY WOULD TAKE PLACE AS LOYAL OPPOSITION. THERE NO CHANGE IN UUUC REFUSAL PARTICIPATE IN INTER-PARTY TALKS OUTSIDE CONVENTION. THERE ALSO NO SIGN THAT MINORITY PARTIES MOVING TOWARD A COALITION.

3. NEWS LETTER (ANTI-NATIONALIST) JAN. 15 REPORTED PADDY DEVLIN CHAIRMAN OF CONVENTION GROUP FOR SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) HAD STATED HE AND PARTY WOULD WELCOME ELECTION. CONGEN UNABLE REACH DEVLIN BUT JOHN HUME DEPUTY SDLP LEADER SAID HE DOUBTED DEVLIN HAD MADE STATEMENT. ACCORDING HUME "IT IS CONTRARY TO OUR WAY OF THINKING" AND "VOTERS WOULD JUST STAY AWAY."

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